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News Release



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Conservation Grants Awarded to Tribes in California and Nevada

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced nearly \$650,000 will be awarded to four Tribes in California and one in Nevada for conservation efforts to protect fish and wildlife resources on tribal lands. These grants are given under two programs: the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program and the Tribal Wildlife Grant Program.

Grants are going to the Duck Valley/Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of Nevada and to the Hopland Tribe, the Round Valley Tribes, the Twenty-Nine Palms Tribe and the Susanville Indian Rancheria of California.

“These grant programs enable tribes to more effectively participate in the mosaic of national fish and wildlife conservation efforts,” said Interior Secretary, Gale Norton. “Our tribal partners are a key component to the federal government’s effort to conserve our shared wildlife heritage.”

Since 2003, the Service has put \$23 million to work for tribal conservation efforts through both the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program and the Tribal Wildlife Grant Program.

“In California and Nevada, as in the rest of the nation, Indian tribes are helping us achieve our mission,” said Steve Thompson, manager of the Service’s California-Nevada Operations Office. “Thanks to these two special grant programs, we are strengthening our partnerships to promote species conservation and to protect healthy ecosystems for future generations.”

The Tribal Landowner Incentive Program (TLIP) assists federally recognized Indian tribes to protect, restore, and manage habitat for species at-risk, including federally listed endangered or threatened species, as well as proposed or candidate species on tribal lands. The Service is providing about \$2.1 million to fund 17 Tribal Landowner Incentive Program projects, nationwide.

Under the **Tribal Wildlife Grant Program** (TWG), about \$6 million will fund 28 projects nationally. The TWG grants are awarded to federally recognized Indian tribes to benefit fish, wildlife and their habitat including species that are not hunted or fished.

The 565 federally recognized Indian tribes have a controlling interest in more than 52 million acres of tribal trust lands and an additional 40 million acres held by Alaska Native corporations. Much of this land is relatively undisturbed, providing a significant amount of rare and important fish and wildlife habitat.

TLIP grants awarded in California and Nevada are:

Susanville Tribe of California	\$28,525
Cradle Valley Indigenous Landscape Enhancement Project	
Round Valley Indian Tribes of California	\$95,300
Mill Creek Habitat Restoration Project and Fisheries and Wildlife Management Plan	
Duck Valley - Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of Nevada	\$149,347
Survey Wildlife and Habitat in the Blue Creek Wetlands for the Development of a Wetlands Management Plan	

TWG grants awarded are:

Hopland Tribe of California	\$119,417
Hopland Band of Pomo Indians Creek Habitat Restoration Project	
Twenty-Nine Palms Tribe of California	\$249,847
Old Woman Mountain Preserve Project	

Summaries of these grant projects can be found at the Service's Tribal Programs Website:
<http://pacific.fws.gov/ea/tribal>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.